

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/718,531

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Applicant(s)

TRIPP ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to April 27, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 51, 53, 55, 57, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 83, 85-89, 95-98 and 100-106 (renumbered to 1-34).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 6/16/2006.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is responsive to Applicant's Amendments filed April 27, 2006. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, a telephone interview conducted on June 16, 2006, and in light of the prior art made of record, Applicant's response of April 27, 2006 and Examiner's Amendments made on June 20, 2006, Claims 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 51, 53, 55, 57, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 83, 85-89, 95-98, 100-106 are allowed.

Priority

2. Applicant's claim for the benefit of a prior-filed application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/419,405, filed October 14, 1999, under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) or under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(c) is acknowledged. Also acknowledged is Applicant's claim of benefit of PCT Application US00/28653, filed October 13, 2000. The contents of the above applications were incorporated by reference in the instant application.

Drawings

3. The Drawings filed on November 21, 2000 are accepted.

Examiner's Amendments

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's amendment, listed below, was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michael Smith (Registration Number 39,653) on June 16, 2006. The interview summary is attached.

The application has been amended as follows:

4.1. In the specification page 23 line 18,

please **delete** ~~http://webserver.law.yale.edu/infosociety/~~

and **insert** <<http://webserver.law.yale.edu/infosociety/>>

4.2. Please amend claims 1-15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 41, 43, 51, 75, 77-83, 90-95 and 107-110 as follow:

1. (Currently Amended)
2. (Currently Amended)
3. (Currently Amended)
4. (Currently Canceled)
5. (Currently Canceled)
6. (Currently Canceled)
7. (Currently Canceled)
8. (Currently Canceled)
9. (Currently Canceled)
10. (Currently Canceled)
11. (Currently Canceled)
11. (Currently Canceled)
13. (Currently Canceled)
14. (Currently Canceled)
15. (Currently Canceled)
17. (Currently Canceled)

19. (Currently Canceled)

21. (Currently Canceled)

23. (Currently Canceled)

25. (Currently Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended): A method of constructing a catalog of rankings from objects stored within a network, the network including a plurality of interconnected computers with one computer storing the catalog and being designated a cataloging site and at least two other computers storing a plurality of objects and being designated source sites, the method comprising:

a) receiving inputs from users of each of the two or more source sites mapping one or more of the plurality of objects to one or more user defined descriptors associated with a category of descriptors;

b) storing the inputs in an index file

c) running on each source site a program which assembles data relating to objects stored on the source site;

d) ranking at least some of the assembled data as a function of a set of ranking rules and the index file, thereby assigning rankings to the assembled data;

e) transmitting the rankings from each source site to the cataloging site; and

f) aggregating the rankings at the cataloging site to generate a catalog of rankings,

wherein at least one of the rankings relates to a set of objects on the source site and

wherein an agent calculates a relationship value representing a distance in text between objects and, at the cataloging site, these relationship values are combined with relationship values from other sites to create a relationship value table representing the likelihood of an object being similar to another object.

41. (Currently Canceled)

43. (Currently Canceled)

51. (Currently Amended): A method of rating objects stored at a site on a network and constructing a catalog of ratings, the network including a plurality of interconnected computers with access to the objects, the method comprising:

a) receiving inputs from a host of the site mapping one or more of the objects to one or more host defined descriptors associated with a category of descriptors;

b) storing the inputs in an index file;

c) running on the site a program which processes objects stored on the site, thereby assembling values found in at least one of the objects for comparison to a list of rating values;

d) generating a rating for each object by relating the values found in the object to the list of rating values;

e) aggregating the ratings to generate the catalog of ratings; and

f) comparing the values found in the object to the host defined descriptors mapped to the objects in the index file; and

g) generating a category indication for a result of a search based on the catalog of ratings.

75. (Currently Canceled)

77. (Currently Canceled)

78. (Currently Canceled)

79. (Currently Canceled)

80. (Currently Canceled)

81. (Currently Canceled)

82. (Currently Canceled)

83. (Currently Amended): A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for performing a method of constructing a catalog of rankings from objects stored within a network, the network including a plurality of interconnected computers with one computer storing the catalog and being designated a cataloging site and at least two other computers storing a plurality of objects and being designated source sites, the computer program product performs the steps ~~the method~~ comprising:

a) receiving inputs from a host of the site mapping one or more of the objects to one or more user defined descriptors associated with a category of descriptors;

b) storing the inputs in an index file

c) running on each source site a program which assembles data relating to objects stored on the source site;

d) ranking at least some of the assembled data as a function of a set of ranking rules and the index file, thereby assigning rankings to the assembled data;

e) transmitting the rankings from each source site to the cataloging site; and

f) aggregating the rankings at the cataloging site to generate a catalog of rankings,
wherein at least one of the rankings relates to a set of objects on the source site
and
wherein an agent calculates a relationship value representing a distance in text
between objects and, at the cataloging site, these relationship values are combined
with relationship values from other sites to create a relationship value table
representing the likelihood of an object being similar to another object.

90. (Currently Canceled)

91. (Currently Canceled)

92. (Currently Canceled)

93. (Currently Canceled)

94. (Currently Canceled)

95. (Currently Amended): A computer program product residing on a computer-readable medium for performing a method of rating objects stored at a site on a network and constructing a catalog of ratings, the network including a plurality of interconnected computers with access to the objects, the method comprising:

a) receiving inputs from a host of the site mapping one or more of the objects to one or more user defined rating values;

b) storing the inputs in an index file

c) running on the site a program which processes objects stored on the site, thereby assembling values found in at least one of the objects for comparison to a list of rating values;

d) ~~generating a rating for each object by relating the values found in the object to the list of rating values;~~ generating a rating for each object by relating the values found in the object to a list of human input rating values supplied by an owner of the site and stored in a file associated with the site which file is read by said program; and

e) aggregating the ratings to generate the catalog of ratings; and

f) comparing the values found in the object to the user defined rating values.

107. (Currently Canceled)

108. (Currently Canceled)

109. (Currently Canceled)

110. (Currently Canceled)

Reason for Allowable

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for Final Rejection of December 13, 2005, U.S.C. § 103, rejections was primarily based on Hartman et al: "THE INFORMATION SPECIALIST'S GUIDE TO SEARCHING AND RESEARCHING ON THE INTERNET AND THE WORLD WIDE WEB", Karen Hartman, Ernest Ackerman, October 1998, Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, Inc, hereafter "Hartman"; in view of Levin et al.: "VISUALIZATION OF INTERNET SEARCH INFORMATION", U.S. Patent 6,434,556, issued August 13, 2002, hereafter "Levin".

In the response filed on April 27, 2006 to Examiner's non-Final Rejection of October 27, 2005, Applicant argued that the Hartman and Levin references do not teach, whether alone or in combination, the subject matter of "receiving inputs from users of each of the two or more source sites mapping one or more of the plurality of objects to one or more user defined descriptors associated with a category of descriptors; storing the input in an index file and; ranking at least some of the assembled data as a function of a set of ranking rules and the index file, thereby assigning rankings to the assembled data; and transmitting the rankings from each source site to the cataloging site" as claimed in claims 27, 51 and 83. Applicant further argued that the references receive general search terms and other inputs from a person browsing a site and analyzing the site accordingly and do not teach, whether alone or in combination, the subject matter of "receiving inputs from a host of the site mapping one or more of the objects to one or more user defined rating values" as described in claim 95.

After a thorough search for the prior art conducted on EAST database and domains (NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE), and a detailed examination of the search results, the Examiner is persuaded that the prior art searched and made of record does not teach the combined subject matter of

receiving inputs from multiple source sites mapping objects to user defined descriptors, ranking assembled data as a function of ranking rules and index file of inputs, thereby assigning rankings to the assembled data, transmitting the

rankings from source site to cataloging site, aggregating the rankings to generate ranking catalog or catalog indication for a search result

as described in the claims amended by Examiner's Amendment as listed above in each of the independent claims 27, 51, 83 and 95.

The dependent claims in the groups (29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 39), (53, 55, 57, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71 and 73), (85-89) and (96-98 and 100-106), depending on claims 27, 51, 83 and 95, respectively, also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

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Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kuen S. Lu



Patent Examiner

June 21, 2006



JOHN R. GOTTINGHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

